

ideals. These Games showed us that the Olympic spirit is no mere Utopian dream but dwells in the mind and spirit of the people of the world and expresses a fundamental conviction on the part of all those who come directly in contact with the Olympic Movement.

The scepticism of a few who were indifferent to or ignorant of Olympism was swept away by the general enthusiasm roused by the Games. The greatness of the Olympic ideology rejects right away all principles contrary to its spirit. The deviations bear in themselves the seed of their own destruction.

The Olympic Games give neither material gain nor prerogatives ; they involve no political or racial superiority : the Olympic movement pursues the individual improvement of the training of youth, with a view to the improvement of all and strives to make international friendship a concrete fact. Obviously each country fervently wishes to celebrate Olympic victories and see its athletes rewarded by gold medals. But in order to satisfy the principle of the Olympic spirit, it is indispensable for the desire for victory to be restricted within certain moral limits, safeguarding its essential criteria.

## **THE OLYMPIC IDEAL IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND**

by Otto Szymiczek

I was one of the lucky ones fortunate enough to be present at the Winter Games at Innsbruck and the Summer Games in Tokyo. During these two Olympics I lived among the spectators and the trainers ; I watched most of the races and competitions, took part in the general meetings of various federations, and studied the behaviour and reactions of the spectators.

In the light of this unforgettable experience, I feel I can safely say that the Olympic Movement is well along the right track towards achieving its

## **PRINCIPLES**

In almost all countries, criticisms are raised against the athletes that have not won medals in the Olympic Games. Such criticism is based on a false premise, not setting up the improvement of the human being as its aim but the satisfaction of national prestige. Under its pressure, individuals are led to take wrong and harmful steps. Now the aim of the Olympic movement is not only to organize the Games.



*A programme planned with intelligence...*

The four-yearly games represent a summons intended to make mankind aware of the necessity of creating a more perfect, nobler youth, stronger in both body and soul. The dividing line between these two points of view is infinitely subtle and fragile. The distinction is possible only if the teachers are experienced and implement an intelligently planned programme. These teachers must realize that the main thing is not to win at any price but to take part in the competition after a conscientious preparation based on the natural capacities of each individual.

What counts above all is the preparation. It is necessary to develop youth harmoniously in all fields ; physical training must not interfere with the professional development, social evolution and studies of an individual ; that is why the concept of Olympism is only to be considered from the point of view of amateurism.

I should like here to emphasize that the duty of all sports instructors and trainers is to inculcate in youth the principles of the Olympic movement in all their purity and inspiration. As Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the International Olympic Committee, stated at the meeting in Baden-Baden (1963) :

*Countries which are alarmed by their low Olympic standing should proceed in a legitimate manner to lay the proper foundation in their educational system and not confine their efforts to the champions. It is a national programme of physical training and competitive sport with proper stress on the ethical values that should be subsidized and not individual athletes. Too often it is only the sports elite that is considered in the hasty programmes that are thrown together primarily for national aggrandizement. The real objective is a strong and healthy youth.*

This brief extract from President Brundage's speech contains the essence of our line of thought.